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NOTES AND NEWS.

Dr. George Bruce Halsted has been elected Corresponding Member of the Société des Sciences Physiques et Naturelles de Bordeaux, in whose Mémoires appeared his work La contribution non euclidienne à la philosophie. F.

Messrs. Ginn and Company announce the publication of a book entitled *The Hindu-Arabic Numerals,* by David Eugene Smith, of Columbia University, and Louis C. Karpinski, of the University of Michigan. The work gives a complete story of the rise and development of the numerals, and is illustrated with numerous facsimiles from early inscriptions and manuscripts, most of which have not hitherto been published in connection with this subject, and all of which contribute to a very marked degree to an understanding of the problem. S.

The Mathematics Club of Columbia University is a new organization for the purpose of promoting personal and intellectual relations among the graduate students and faculty in the department of mathematics. Regular meetings of an informal character will be held for the reading and discussion of papers. This organization is in addition to the more formal Mathematical Colloquium of long standing in the department. A similar organization has existed at the University of Chicago for several years, to supplement the work of the Mathematical Club and Seminar and to form a rallying point for mathematical students early in their graduate course. S.

In the Central Association of Science and Mathematics Teachers during the past few years, important reports have been presented on the teaching of biology, chemistry, physics, algebra, geometry, and unified mathematics. In addition to these formal reports numerous symposiums and discussions have been published in *School Science and Mathematics.* At the recent annual meeting in Cleveland, there was presented an important report on the fundamental findings of all the previous documents, including both those common to the various subjects and those peculiar to special subjects. This report is well worth the careful study of all teachers of mathematics. It shows the constructive and coherent activity of this association. Copies may be obtained from the press of *School Science and Mathematics,* 2059 East 72nd Place, Chicago, Illinois. S.

BOOKS.

Text Book on Practical Astronomy. By George L. Hosmer, Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. 8 vo. Cloth, vii+205 pages. 78 figures. Price, $2.00 net. New York: John Wiley & Sons.

The purpose of this volume, we are told, is to furnish a text in practical astronomy, especially adapted to the needs of civil engineering students who can devote but little time to the subject and who are not likely to take up the advanced study of astronomy. The text deals, therefore, largely with that class of observations which can be made with surveying instruments, the refinements of observations and the rigorous mathematical formulation of principles being left for the theoretical student to supply.

The work is in full agreement in its methods with the spirit of modern education, and will find a useful place in practical teaching. F.

An Elementary Treaties on the Dynamics of a Particle and of Rigid Bodies. By S. L. Loney, M. A., Professor of Mathematics at the Royal Holloway College (University of London), sometime Fellow of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. 8 vo. Cloth, viii+374 pages. Price, $4.00. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, England. G. P. Putnam's Sons, American Agents.

This treatise develops the theory of the dynamics of a particle of a rigid body, with that lucidity of expression, simplicity and directness of presentation, and logical consistency so characteristic of Professor Loney's Mathematical Texts. The book is intended for both engineering and mathematical students. A fair working knowledge of the Differential and Integral Calculus, as well as of Differential Equations, is required in order to read it, though all the Differential Equations required are solved in an appendix.

A large number of interesting problems, chiefly collected from University and College examinations, are included, and many problems are solved, thus giving the student a good idea how the various problems may be attacked.

The typography and mechanical execution of the work is all that could be desired. F.

Mechanics. By John Cox, M. A., F. R. S. C., Honorary LL. D., Queen's University, Kingston; formerly Professor of Physics in McGill University, Montreal; sometime Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, England. 8 vo. Cloth, xiv+332 pages. Price, $2.75. Cambridge: The University Press. G. P. Putnam's Sons, American Agents.

This book may be considered as a protest against the prevailing method of presenting the subject of mechanics, viz.: The method beginning the subject by collection of definitions of mass, motion, force, matter, etc.. comprising the first chapter and the second taking up the mathematical study of motion in the abstract, and so through a course which leaves the student with the notion that he has been studying mathematics pure but not simple. The author has fashioned his course of study somewhat after the famous treatise of Professor Ernst Mach. In writing the book the author has kept in view six aims, of which we mention the following:

(1) First and throughout, to make a text-book of mechanical principles, avoiding as far as possible merely mathematical difficulties; (2), to develop the principles in their historical order; (3), to bring out incidentally the points of philosophic interest and the method of science; and (4), to interest the student in the personality of the great pioneers of the science and if possible have them refer to their writings.

The course as presented in this volume has been tested by the author with his classes in McGill University, and has proved very satisfactory to him.

We believe that it would be well to have some such course as this to serve as an introduction to the study of mechanics, without regard to the future use the student wishes to make of the knowledge thus gained. The author believes that, "until mechanics is clad in its historical flesh and blood, it will remain the dull and tiresome subject that has convinced so many generations of students that an abysmal gulf separates theory from practice."

The text also contains portraits of Archimedes, Galileo, Huyghens, and Newton. F.